



# This week's big news



#### What is the Ivy League?



The lvy League is a group of eight private universities that are among the most selective in the country. All were founded between the years 1636 and 1865 and are located in the Northeast part of the US. They are Princeton, Harvard, Yale, University of Pennsylvania, Dartmouth, Columbia, Cornell, and Brown.

# Universities resist executive actions

ed by Harvard University, hundreds of colleges and universities across the country are opposing demands for policy changes made by President Donald Trump's administration. The conflicts represent an escalation in the administration's effort to reshape higher education in the US.

#### What universities are affected?

The Trump administration told seven prestigious universities that they face major penalties if they do not change their policies: Harvard, Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, and Northwestern. All of these, except Northwestern, are part of the lvy League (see box above). Dozens of other universities—including the University of California in Berkeley and Los Angeles, George Washington University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Minnesota—have received letters saying they are being

# investigated and may face similar penalties. What does the administration want?

The administration has said it wants to overhaul higher education, which it views as unfriendly to Trump's policies. Among other changes, the administration wants universities to limit student protests and discipline certain students who participate in them. The government also wants

the universities to fight antisemitism (prejudice against Jewish people) and end diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies in admissions and hiring. The administration wants to prevent certain foreign students from attending college in the US and wants universities to change what they teach in class to be more in line with Trump's policies. Trump wants to oversee these changes.

The administration has paused or threatened to suspend more than \$12 billion in funding for the universities if they do not comply. The federal government provides billions of dollars to many universities in the US, mostly to pay for

medical and scientific research. The administration also told Harvard that the government would block it from admitting any foreign students and change the university's tax status so it

How have the universities responded?

**Alan Garber** 

has to pay more taxes.

Columbia was the first to respond to the demands, saying on March 21 that it would change some policies to avoid funding cuts.

On April 14, Harvard, the nation's oldest and wealthiest university, was the first to stand up to the administration. "No government—regardless of which party is in power—should dictate what

private universities can teach, whom they can admit and hire, and which areas of study and inquiry they can pursue," Alan Garber, Harvard's president, said in a statement.

On April 21, Harvard filed a lawsuit against the government for pausing \$2.2 billion in research funding. "These actions have stark real-life consequences for patients, students, faculty, staff, researchers, and the standing of American higher education in the world," Garber said, while also acknowledging that Harvard must do more to fight antisemitism. Students on campuses across the US—from Harvard to the University of New Mexico to San Jose State University in California—have held protests against the government's actions. On April 22, the presidents of more than 200 US colleges and universities signed a letter criticizing the administration's attempts to interfere in higher education. "We must oppose undue government intrusion in the lives of those who learn, live, and work on our campuses," they wrote.

#### What will happen next?

The conflict will play out in the courts. In addition to Harvard's lawsuit, groups of professors at Harvard and Columbia as well as several international students have sued the government. As the lawsuits proceed, some universities that are facing an uncertain financial future are closing research labs, laying off staff, and pausing hiring.

# Hint of life found on a far planet

Scientists have discovered what they called the most promising signs yet of life on another planet, which is called K2-18b. The researchers detected the chemicals dimethyl sulfide (DMS) and dimethyl disulfide (DMDS) in K2-18b's atmosphere. These chemicals are considered an indication of life because on Earth, they are produced only by living organisms, like algae.

K2-18b is outside our solar system and was first spotted in 2015. It's in a "habitable zone," where it's neither too hot nor too cold for life to exist. The scientists were studying it with the world's most powerful space telescope, the James Webb Space Telescope, when they spotted traces of DMS and DMDS in its atmosphere.

Nikku Madhusudhan, who led the research, told reporters he believes K2-18b could have "an ocean that is teeming with life." But, he added, the findings do not confirm that life exists on K2-18b. Other scientists agreed that more data needs to be collected and that there could be other reasons for the presence of DMS and DMDS in the atmosphere.





# Pope Francis dies at age 88

pope Francis, the head of the worldwide Catholic Church, died on April 21 at age 88, at his residence at the Vatican (Catholic city-state) in Rome, Italy. He rose from modest origins to become the 266th pope and the first from Latin America.

Francis was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1936. He took the name Francis in 2013, when he was elected to lead the church and its more than 1 billion followers. Often called "the people's pope," Francis was known for his humility, his compassion for the poor, and his focus on forgiveness and peace. In one of his first addresses as pope, he said, "A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just."

In February, Francis was hospitalized with pneumonia and spent five weeks in the hospital. Despite his health challenges, he gave an Easter blessing to a crowd at St. Peter's Square, outside the Vatican, the day before he died. The cause of death was a stroke and heart failure.

As crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square and in Argentina to honor Francis, tributes poured in from world leaders. "Through his work and care for both people and planet, he profoundly touched the lives of so many," said King Charles of the UK. President Donald Trump ordered flags at US government buildings lowered to half-staff as a sign of respect.

A funeral will be held on April 26. Francis requested a burial at a cathedral near the Vatican, making him the first pope since 1903 who will not be buried at the more elaborate St. Peter's Basilica. Cardinal Kevin Farrell will serve as interim pope while Catholic leaders begin the complex process of choosing a new one, which is called a conclave.



### IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

#### A GREAT BIG BIRTHDAY

Fatou, the world's oldest gorilla in captivity, celebrated her 68th birthday at the Berlin Zoo in Germany with a fruit basket. Gorillas are endangered in the wild. "Every day with her is a gift," said the zoo's veterinarian.





#### STAYING FIT

Jerry Leo, age 100, can hold a plank position for three minutes, longer than people half her age in her fitness class at the YMCA. Leo, who has been a member of the New York gym since 1991, shared the secret to her health: "Be consistent, be positive, and keep moving in whatever you do."

#### A BOOK BRIGADE

When an independent bookstore in Michigan was moving about a block away, 300 people lined up on the sidewalk to pass the books, one by one, from the old location to the new one. The human chain moved 9,100 books in under two hours and united the community. The shop's owner called the effort "heartwarming."





#### A famous teen rider



On the night of April 26, 1777, Sybil Ludington (above), age 16, was believed to have ridden nearly 40 miles to alert US troops that the British were planning an attack in Connecticut. As a result, the US army was ready and the British retreated. She became known as the "female Paul Revere" of the American Revolution.

# **Historical events celebrated in Boston**

The city of Boston, Massachusetts, and surrounding towns have begun marking the 250th anniversary of major events in US history. The celebrations highlight significant moments in 1775 that led to the American Revolution, the nation's fight for independence from the British.

#### What happened in 1775?

On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere was summoned to ride on horseback from Boston to the town of Lexington to warn that British troops were about to invade. Meanwhile, Revere's friend held two lit lanterns in a Boston tower to send a message to colonists stationed across the Charles River. The two lanterns signaled "two if by sea," alerting the colonists that the British were going to row across the river rather than march by land. The

next day, the Minute Men, soldiers who were ready to fight at a minute's notice, were able to defeat the British in the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

#### Why was this important?

Americans showed they could stand up to England, which had one of the world's most powerful armies. By summer, a full-scale war had broken out. The following year the US declared its independence on July 4, 1776, although fighting continued for years. In 1783, the British recognized American independence and the war ended.

#### How is the occasion being marked?

A variety of reenactments took place, beginning on April 18. An actor on horseback rode from the Paul Revere House to honor Revere's ride to Lexington. A lantern procession to Boston Harbor was held to remember the "two if by sea" signal. Actors staged a reenactment of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, and celebrations included musical performances, parades, and a light show.

#### How did people react?

Officials said that history is an important part of Boston's identity. "What we're celebrating... is the beauty of possibility in the city that gave this nation its freedom," said Michelle Wu, the city's mayor. Reenactors said they were excited to bring history to life. "Being able to commemorate the battle that happened in 1775, 250 years ago, is quite an honor for me," said staff sergeant Jay Healy of the US Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

# WORD # WEEK

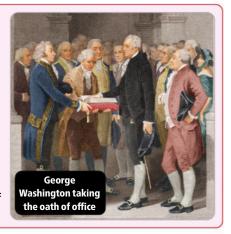
#### **POPE**

The word "pope" came into English from
Latin, but its roots lie in
Greek, in which
pappas meant "father." The
name
shows that the pope is
viewed as
the father of the Roman
Catholic Church. Both "pope"

#### THE WEEK IN HISTORY

#### **April 30, 1789**

First US President is sworn in
On April 30, 1789, George Washington was
sworn in as the first US President. After
being elected unanimously (all in favor), he
took the oath of office on the steps of
Federal Hall in New York City, which was
then the nation's capital. About 10,000
people attended. In his address, which was
about 10 minutes long, Washington spoke of
his gratitude to serve as the first President.







#### Social media law struck down

A federal judge struck down a law in Ohio that would have required children and teens under age 16 to get parental consent to use social media apps. The decision came after a lawsuit (legal dispute) was filed by NetChoice, a group that represents tech companies. While the judge said he recognized the need to protect children from the harms of social media, the law didn't abide by the right to free speech outlined in the US Constitution (nation's top law).



#### Achievement for Army Ranger

First Lieutenant Gabrielle White, age 25, has become the first woman to complete the US Army's Best Ranger Competition. White and her teammate, Captain Seth Deltenre, finished 14th out of 52 two-member teams, with no other female soldiers competing. The three-day challenge featured 30 physically demanding events, including helicopter missions and obstacle courses.



#### Top prizes in Constitution contest

Two high school teams from Oregon tied for first place at a national civics competition called We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals. It was held outside Washington, DC, with teams from across the US participating. The champions were Lincoln High School, consisting of 32 students, and Sprague High School, which had only two team members, a first for the finals.



# **AANHPI** Heritage Month to be observed

Throughout the month of May, the nation is set to celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. The observance, which takes place every year, honors descendants of the continent of Asia and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia and their contributions to US history and culture. The theme of this year's month is "A Legacy of Leadership and Resilience."

In 1977, Congress (branch of government that makes laws) introduced a bill to declare the first week of May to be Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week, which was first celebrated in 1979. May was declared Asian/ Pacific American Heritage

Month by Congress in 1992. In 2021, a Presidential proclamation officially changed the name of the month to include Native Hawaiians.

May was chosen for the timing because of two historical events. In May 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the US. In May 1869, the transcontinental railroad, linking the East Coast to the West Coast, was finished. The majority of workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants, about 15,000 in total.

Celebrations are taking place in many US cities.

Art by AANHPI artists will be displayed at city hall in Bellevue, Washington. The CelebrASIA festival featuring food, art, and performances

will take place in Austin, Texas.
On May 28, the Chicago Cubs,

a Major League Baseball team, will celebrate Asian American heritage during a home game, and fans will be able to purchase jerseys honoring Asian American heritage.

Other highlights include an exhibit at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in

Washington, DC, about the influence Asian Americans have had on the nation's capital. A PBS station in Southern California is presenting documentaries about Asian American history.

For more about the contributions of Asian Americans, see the story about Jonny Kim, the first Korean American astronaut in space, on page 9.



An exhibit at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC, will recognize the contributions of Asian Americans.

tion called We the People: The on National Finals. It was held

"Deer wanders into YMCA in Kentucky" *UPI* 



SETTY IMAGES (3); U.S. ARMY PHOTO/CAPT. STEPHANIE SNYDER: DREW PRECIOUS/CENTER FOR LIVIC EDUCATION; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); SHUTTERSTOCK

### **Around the world**

# A rendering of an ankylosaurid

# British Columbia, Canada Dinosaur footprints discovered

Scientists have discovered the world's first known footprints from an ankylosaurid dinosaur, which had bony outer armor, three toes, and a clubbed tail. The prints belong to a newly identified species called Ruopodosaurus clava, which means "the tumbled-down lizard with a club." They are about 94 million to 100 million years old and are the first evidence that ankylosaurids lived in North America during that time period.



# Spain Healthier school menus required

Under a new law, schools in Spain will be required to offer healthier food options for students. Fresh fruit and vegetables must be provided daily, fish should be served at least once a week, and vegan options must be introduced. Vending machines can't sell food or drinks containing more than 5 grams of sugar. The government said the changes were needed because 74% of school cafeterias in Spain don't meet nutritional standards.



# Lima, Peru Ex-president sentenced to prison

On April 15, a court found Peru's ex-president, Ollanta Humala, guilty of money laundering (disguising money from an illegal source). The court said he paid for election campaigns in 2006 and 2011 with illegal donations from a Brazilian construction company and a former Venezuelan president. Humala has been sentenced to 15 years in prison but plans to appeal the decision.

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# Chester, UK Sloth gets dental surgery

A team of experts conducted a pioneering surgery to cure Rico the sloth's toothache. In the three-hour operation at the Chester Zoo, dentists removed infected tissue around two teeth and sealed one tooth's root with special cement. Rico is believed to be the first sloth to undergo the procedure. The zoo's yet told BBC News. "The treatment worked."





#### Nigeria Song banned

Authorities in Nigeria have banned a song from being played on the radio because it is critical of President Bola Tinubu. The song "Tell Your Papa" by Eedris Abdulkareem, a musician who openly criticizes the government, was written after Tinubu's son said his father is the greatest leader in Nigeria's history. Amnesty International, a human rights organization, said banning the song is taking away Abdulkareem's freedom of expression.



# **Around the world**



Ju Wenjun



#### Sweden

#### Live moose coverage begins

On April 15, a livestream showing the migration of moose across northern Sweden began. Millions of people watch The Great Moose Migration, which has been broadcast every spring since 2019 as moose swim across the Angerman River to reach grazing lands. It's available 24 hours a day on the Swedish streaming platform SVT Play until May 4.



#### Sandstorm sweeps across country

As high winds carried sand through the air, airports in the Iragi cities of Basra and Najaf had to close and more than 3,700 people went to hospitals because the sandstorm affected their breathing. Many people wore face masks to protect themselves, and paramedics were on duty in public places to help those in need. Sandstorms are common in Iraq, but experts think they're happening more often because of climate change.



#### **Chongging. China** Chess champion takes fifth world title

Chinese chess grandmaster Ju Wenjun, age 34, has won the Women's World Chess Championship for the fifth time in a row. At the final in Chongqing on April 16, Ju beat her rival Tan Zhongyi with a score of 6.5 to 2.5, becoming the first Chinese player and the fourth woman ever to secure the title

five times. Ju earned a cash prize of about \$341,000 for her win. Tan, who took second place, received about \$227,000.



#### Zimbabwe A new way to travel

An electric tricycle company has helped to transform women's lives in Zimbabwe. Mobility for Africa provides tricycles to people in rural communities who often have to walk long distances to get around. Women can use the vehicles to get supplies like food and water, take family members where they need to go, and start delivery businesses. During a test of the program, 92% of women said they felt safer traveling on the tricycles than walking.





#### Singapore

#### **Nation set to hold elections**

Singapore dissolved its parliament (similar to Congress) on April 15 and announced that national elections will be held on May 3. The Workers' Party will seek to challenge the People's Action Party, which has been in power since 1965. The party that wins a majority will form a government, including installing the prime minister. All 2.75 million eligible voters will be required to vote.

# The big debate

# Should peaceful protesters be punished?

Some people say the right to free speech outweighs any disruption they cause.

#### What you need to know

- A peaceful protest is a type of protest, such as a march or boycott, where there is no violent action.
- In the US, the right to peacefully protest is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the US Constitution.
- People can legally protest on public property as long as they're not blocking cars in the street or people on the sidewalk.
- By law, peaceful protests can include groups of people gathering, cheering, shouting, and waving signs.

In 2023, climate activist Timothy Martin was arrested after he smeared washable finger paint on the protective case of a statue at a museum in Washington, DC. Martin, who wanted to draw attention to the urgency of the climate crisis, did not harm the sculpture but did cause \$4,000 worth of other damage. He faces up to five years in prison and \$500,000 in fines. In recent years, dozens of protesters have been arrested across the US for blocking traffic. No one has been hurt, but the protests affected many commuters. Some people say that even though these protests were peaceful, they're not OK. What do you think? Should peaceful protesters be punished?



#### Yes-the law is the law

It's against the law to damage private property or block a road or sidewalk on purpose. If people break the law, they should be punished. These kinds of protests are usually meant to get people's attention without causing serious harm, but just because no one gets hurt doesn't make it right. When traffic is blocked, ambulances or police cars can be delayed and people can get stuck in traffic for hours. That's not going to win the protesters any supporters. If protesters are punished, others will think twice before using the same methods. They might consider different forms of peaceful protest, like marching or signing a petition.

#### No-it's their right to protest

Everyone in the US has the right to free speech. Punishing protesters for peaceful action goes against that and discourages others from speaking out and standing up for causes they believe in. People may not like the way activists get their message across, but it's hard to get anyone's attention these days. Sometimes it takes dramatic action—like disrupting the morning commute or causing a scene in a museum—to make a point. Of course it's annoying when protesters shut down a road or a museum has to clean up a mess, but causes like climate change are far more important than any temporary inconvenience.

### Three reasons peaceful protesters should be punished

- If their method of protest breaks the law, they should be punished for it.
- Even if there's no harm to people or damage to art, protests can still cause problems—and won't win supporters.
- Punishing peaceful but disruptive protesters will discourage other people from trying the same methods.

### Three reasons peaceful protesters should not be punished

- Everyone in the US has the right to peacefully protest. It's important to stand up for what you believe in.
- The style of protest may be frustrating to others, but sometimes it takes a creative approach to get people's attention.
- A little inconvenience is a small price to pay to support an urgent cause.

#### **LAST WEEK'S POLL**

Last week, we asked if schools should require climate lessons. Three quarters of you said yes, students should be taught about how our planet is changing.

### What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit <u>kids.theweekjunior.com/polls</u> so you can vote in our debate. Vote <u>YES</u> if you think peaceful protesters should be punished or <u>NO</u> if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

**The goal of the big debate** is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

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# Reaching the stars

The Soyuz MS-27

Jonny Kim's path from the Navy to NASA was fueled by big dreams.

ASA astronaut Jonny Kim made history on April 8 by becoming the first Korean American astronaut in space. He traveled aboard the Soyuz MS-27 spacecraft with Russian cosmonauts Sergey Ryzhikov and Alexey

Sergey Ryzhikov and Alexey Zubritsky and is now spending eight months aboard the International Space Station (ISS, a laboratory orbiting 254 miles from Earth). During his mission, he will serve as a flight engineer, testing new technologies for future missions and studying how space affects the human body.

Kim, age 41, is the son of South Korean immigrants and was raised in Los Angeles, California. He joined the US military at age 18 and became a Navy SEAL, serving as a combat medic on more than 100 missions. Through the Navy, he earned a bachelor's

degree in math from the University of San Diego. His time in the field helping others led him to also attend Harvard Medical School and become a physician.

Although Kim did not set out to become

an astronaut, a video of NASA's Orion spacecraft launch in 2014 changed the direction of his life. "It immediately converted me into a space nerd," he told CBS. He applied to the NASA astronaut program, and in 2017 became one of 12 people selected out of 18,300 applicants. He is the agency's

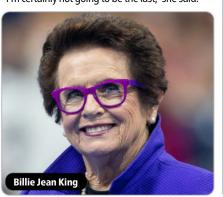
first Korean American astronaut.

Kim hopes his journey reflects his lifelong pursuit of serving his country and others. "I still remember being a scared boy with big dreams of changing the world and not having the [power] to do so," he said. "And now I have that opportunity."



# Sports icon honored

Tennis legend and social activist Billie Jean King, age 81, has received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She is the first woman to receive a star in the sports entertainment category, which celebrates athletes who have made an impact in their sport and beyond. King, who first picked up a tennis racket at age 11, is a 39-time Grand Slam champion and pioneer for gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights. At the dedication, she urged Hollywood to keep celebrating women in sports. "I'm certainly not going to be the last," she said.





# Devotion to his craft

British artist David Hockney is being celebrated with the largest exhibition of his 70-year career. The exhibit, titled *David Hockney 25*, opened at the Louis Vuitton Foundation in Paris, France, and fills all four museum floors with more than 400 works. Hockney, age 87, is known for his colorful portraits and landscapes in various mediums, including paint, Polaroids, and iPad illustrations. He captures everyday moments, from California pools to the English countryside. Hockney told *The New York Times* he paints what is around him. "Looking has been my greatest joy all my life," he said.

### **OVERHEARD**

66 99





# **Animals and the environment**



#### A gap in bird research

Until recently, researchers have focused heavily on male birds. This has led to some mistaken conclusions, such as a long-held belief that only male birds sing. In fact, many female birds sing too. Some scientists are now calling for more studies of female birds and how they differ from males.



# Parakeets have a mind for language

ike most other parrots, parakeets are known to have the ability to mimic human speech. Now a new study has found that when parakeets make sounds, their brains work similarly to the way human brains function when we speak.

The study was led by
Michael Long, a professor at
New York University. Long's
team focused on common
parakeets, also known as
budgerigars or budgies. They
surgically implanted tiny
probes into the brains of four
birds to record their brain activity as
they made sounds, focusing on a part
of the brain called the anterior arcopallium
(AAC), which is known to affect vocal muscles.

They found that certain brain cells became active when the birds made specific sounds.

Some cells seemed to be involved in producing consonants, and others created vowels. Some

high-pitched sounds, while other cells lit up for low-pitched sounds. This simple system allows parakeets to combine different sounds to make complex calls. "What the parrot has presented is this beautiful, elegant solution for

showed activity when the birds made

making vocal sounds," Long told New Scientist. "It has this...set of keys, or in this case, set of brain cells, that

can represent each one of these vocal outcomes and then play whatever it wants."

In human brains, specific brain cell activity is associated with certain movements of the lips or tongue. This is the first time scientists have identified a similar language "map" in the brain of a non-human animal. The researchers think it's possible that other parrots also have a similar setup in their brains.

Long's team also studied zebra finches. In contrast to parakeets, the finches' brains have complicated systems. But these can make only simple songs and cannot mimic human speech.

Researching how language works in bird brains could help scientists better understand how it works in the human brain. This could lead to solutions for speech impairments in humans. Long said that discovering insights from animals is "an important way to develop new treatments for speech disorders."



#### **PLACE OF THE WEEK**

**Parakeets** 

can be chatty.

Pinelands National Reserve, New Jersey

The US Congress established the Pinelands in New Jersey as the first National Reserve in 1978. The reserve contains more than 1 million acres of protected farmland, wetlands, and forests, including the Pine Barrens. About 12,400 acres of the reserve is a "pygmy forest" made of pine and oak trees under 11 feet tall. The Pinelands is rich in wildlife, like the Pine Barrens treefrog, which some consider the most beautiful frog in the US. It has a purple stripe on each side, and its call is a honk heard from April to September.





# Reducing methane in cow burps

For many years, researchers have been trying to solve the problems caused by cow burps. The animals' belches release methane, a gas that contributes to climate change, into the atmosphere.

Now researchers at an Australian company called Loam Bio have come up with a possible answer—growing a fungus that produces a substance called bromoform. When it is fed to cows, bromoform affects the production of methane in the animals' stomachs and their burps contain less of the gas.

The researchers created a database of different species of fungi, then picked out the ones that could produce bromoform and tested them to find out which worked best. They have now set up another company called Roam Agricultural to grow the winning fungus. Other companies already make bromoform synthetically (using processes not found in nature) or by growing seaweed, which also produces the substance. But Matthew Callaghan from Roam told *New Scientist* that using fungi could be a less expensive solution.

# Animal of the week

#### Mediterranean monk seal



The rare Mediterranean monk seal, which was close to extinction, was recently removed from the critically endangered list after conservation efforts by an organization in Greece. About 800 of these seals are currently living in the wild.

- LIFE SPAN: 20 to 30 years
- HABITAT: Mediterranean and Atlantic seas
- SIZE: 7 to 9 feet, 530 to 660 pounds
- **DIET:** Fish, octopuses, and crustaceans
- **FUN FACT:** Pups are usually born in a sea cave, often with an underwater entrance.



### **Good week / Bad week**



#### **Asian elephants**

A new study found that Cambodia's population of Asian elephants, an endangered species, is larger and healthier than experts previously thought. There are 400 to 600 Asian elephants living in the country.



#### Dugongs

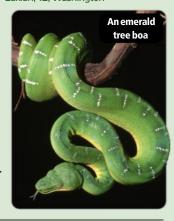
Researchers in Thailand have pinpointed the reason why the population of dugongs has been rapidly decreasing over the past two years.
Seagrass, the marine mammal's main food source, has been dying off.



# "How do snakes slither without any limbs to push them?" Zakiah, 12, Washington

#### **Mollye Nardi** General curator, Birmingham Zoo

Snakes have large, overlapping belly scales that allow them to grip surfaces. They also have lots of muscles in their bodies that help them move. They can flex or relax their muscles to help the belly scales grip and can use their muscles to form S-shaped loops that help push them forward.



Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the Birmingham Zoo at <a href="mailto:birminghamzoo.com">birminghamzoo.com</a>.

# A brilliant marvel of

# Modern cities were made possible by the invention of the elevator.

Elevators have transported goods and people for centuries. Find out how the machines rose to become the high-tech wonders they are today.



mechanic

#### How they work

Elevators consist of cars that move up and down inside a vertical shaft. Most modern elevators—especially those in buildings higher than four stories—are called traction elevators. They have a motor at the top of the shaft that

turns a pulley (a wheel with a groove in it) to raise and lower cables attached to both the car and a counterweight. As the counterweight goes down, the car goes up—and as the counterweight goes up, the car goes down. Elevators also have special brakes as a safety measure. In addition to traction elevators, there are also hydraulic elevators that use a pump to raise and lower the car. These tend to be slower and don't travel as high.



#### Lifts through the centuries

The Greek mathematician Archimedes is thought to have invented an elevator in about 236 BCE. The Roman Colosseum also had elevators, operated by hundreds of men who hoisted gladiators and large animals from underground chambers into the arena. In the 18th century, King Louis XV of France had a "flying chair" in the Palace of Versailles. As early as 1804, mechanized lifts were used to carry goods but not people. They were powered by steam or water, with open platforms rather than cars, and were pulled by ropes that could break, making them too dangerous for passengers.



# **Exceptional elevators**

From under the sea to the top of a mountain, engineers have managed to design and install elevators in some surprising places.



#### Globen Skyview, Sweden

Two specially designed elevators transport visitors in Stockholm, Sweden, along the curved wall of the Avicii Arena, the world's largest building shaped like a sphere. Riders are brought to the top, about 425 feet above sea level, and a full round-trip lasts approximately 20 minutes.



### **All about elevators**



# engineering





#### Tauchgondeln, Germany

Four tauchgondeln, or "diving gondolas," take visitors several feet beneath the Baltic Sea off the coast of Germany, giving riders a chance to look out the windows and learn about the sea's natural habitat while they are underwater.



#### **Bailong elevator, China**

Built into the side of a cliff among sandstone pillars in Zhangjiajie National Forest Park in Hunan, China, this is the world's tallest outdoor elevator. It is made of glass, stands 1,070 feet tall, and has three cars that reach the top in about 90 seconds.



#### The first passenger elevators

"Otis" is a famous name in elevator history. In 1852, Elisha Otis invented a special safety system for elevators. Its unveiling at the 1854 World's Fair in New York City changed public perception of elevator safety. When an elevator made by his company—thought to be the world's first passenger elevator—was installed inside the Haughwout Department Store in New York City in 1857, it created a sensation. The first patent for an elevator designed specifically for passengers, however, was filed by Otis Tufts, who was not related to the Otis family, in 1859. These early passenger elevators were slow, steam powered, and mainly used in hotels as a luxury experience for guests. Today, the Otis Elevator Company is the world's largest manufacturer of elevators.



#### Moving on up

Office buildings started using elevators in the 1870s. These operated on hydraulic power and could move faster. Engineers began making elevators powered by electric motors by the mid-1880s, and push buttons were introduced in 1894. Modern traction elevators were developed in the first two decades of the 1900s—a key factor in the construction of skyscrapers. When the Empire State Building opened in 1931, it had 73 elevators, the most in one building up to that point. More recent innovations include elevators operated with magnets instead of ropes and destination dispatch elevators. To use these, riders push a button for a specific floor and are then told which elevator to board.



# **Science and technology**



# Clue to altitude tolerance found

Altitude sickness is one of the greatest risks to people attempting to scale Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain. Before they can try to reach the top, climbers spend weeks adjusting to the high altitude, where the air is thinner and has less oxygen. But sherpas—a group of people from Nepal who have lived in the region for many generations—are better suited to the extreme conditions. In a recent study, scientists found that sherpas'

There are about 150,000 sherpas living in the Himalaya mountains near Everest, and many work as guides or crew members on the mountain.

Sherpa climbers are known for their endurance at extreme altitudes.

They're less prone to hypoxia, which is a dangerous lack of oxygen that can lead to exhaustion, dizziness, confusion, and death.

kidneys are the key to this ability.

People with hypoxia breathe faster to get more oxygen, but when they do this they also get more carbon dioxide than usual. This lowers the production of a type of acid in the blood. Even a small decrease in this acid can potentially cause damage to cells, and to prevent this, the body's kidneys come to the rescue.

For the study, researchers from Mount Royal University in Canada recruited 14 sherpas and 15 university students from Kathmandu, Nepal, who grew up in lower altitudes. All 29 participants lived in lowland areas for months before the experiment. That way, none of them would have a chance to adjust to a higher altitude.

At the start of the study, researchers took blood samples from the participants at

an altitude of 4,200 feet. Then the group spent nine days climbing to 14,000 feet, where scientists took a second blood sample.

They compared the samples and found that the blood of the 15 people who grew up at lower altitudes had become more alkaline (less acidic). The blood of the sherpas had not

changed, however, and the scientists concluded that their kidneys had balanced their blood acidity levels. They believe this kidney function is a genetic (passed down within the family) trait.

**Mount Everest** 

The study reinforces a previous finding that sherpas have more blood plasma than other people. Plasma is a watery liquid that helps the body deliver oxygen faster. Kidneys also oversee the amount of plasma in the body.

#### **Using drones on Everest**



Mount Everest climbers typically require massive amounts of gear, including oxygen tanks to help them breathe, ladders to help them climb icy cliffs or cross large cracks in the ground, and tents. Most of the equipment that's hauled up the mountain also has to come back down at the end of the trip. Sherpas are often hired to carry gear for climbers who pay for the service. The work is hard and dangerous.

This year, however, drones will be helping out. Expedition companies are testing drones to carry gear in and out and move ladders into position on climbing routes. If successful, the devices would be able to do in 15 minutes what a person on foot can do in seven hours. Drone operators hope the flying machines will reduce the risks for sherpas.

# **Science and technology**



# Dark fur helped early mammals survive

ammals come in a wide variety of shapes and colors today, but that has not always been the case. According to a new study, all mammals from hundreds of millions of years ago had dull, dark-colored fur. While not dazzling to the eye, this look may have helped them survive during the age of the dinosaurs.

The findings were based on an analysis of melanosomes. These are the parts of a cell that are responsible for hair, skin, and eye color. A team of

researchers used a powerful microscope to examine melanosomes in the hairs of 116 modern-day mammals. They found that the melanosomes that make bright colors, such as reds and oranges, are rounder, while melanosomes that make darker colors are longer.

With that information, the team studied preserved hair from six small mammals that lived in China about 165 to 120 million years ago. The creatures were similar to modern mammals like shrews and moles. The scientists found that the animals had only longer melanosomes,

which were linked to gray and brown fur.

This made sense to the team, who believed the creatures were active at night and hunted by

dinosaurs. Dark, drab coats would have helped them hide from predators and also stay warm. Once dinosaurs went extinct about 66 million years ago, mammals could safely evolve (change very slowly over time) into the colorful range of species found today.





# New use for old wind turbines

Wind power is a form of clean energy that generates electricity without releasing any greenhouse gases (gases that trap heat in Earth's atmosphere). But wind power also has a downside: the wind turbine blades that sit on top of tall towers and range from about 170 feet to 351 feet long.

The blades have to be replaced every 20 to 30 years. But old blades often end up going into landfills because they contain a material

called fiberglass that makes them difficult to recycle. To address this problem, a Finnish company called Reverlast is cutting the hollow blades into smaller pieces and converting them into floating structures like docks and piers.

Reverlast said their products not only reuse existing materials but also eliminate the need to manufacture new materials. The company is currently testing its designs, which it said will last for about 50 years.



Scientists in Japan have created a robotic glove that can help piano players improve their speed and accuracy. The device fits over a person's hand and moves their fingers faster and in more complex patterns than they could achieve on their own, even after a lot of practice.

Players wore the glove for 30 minutes. When it was removed, they had better coordination and movement. Even if they wore the glove on one hand, both hands improved. The glove's designers think the training not only made players' hands more agile but also rewired their brains.



# **Photos of the week**









HASAN BAĞLAR; ILENA FASCI; CHRISTOPHER BAKER; GIANNI MAITAN; PEDRO JARQUE KREBS; JAKE VIRUS

# **Photos of the week**













**Leon Draisaitl** 

#### Women's hockey news



In the final game of hockey's Women's World Championship on April 20, Team USA beat rival Team Canada, 4–3, in overtime. Tessa Janecke (above) scored the game-winning goal for the US, which now has 11 world championship titles.

# Postseason games begin in the NHL

The 2024–25 NHL (National Hockey League) regular season ended on April 17. Each year, 16 of the league's 32 teams qualify to compete in the Stanley Cup playoffs, which began on April 19. The defending champions are the Florida Panthers.

During the regular season, teams earn points for wins as well as losses in overtime, and the team with the most points receives the President's Trophy.

This year it went to the Winnipeg

Jets, who compiled 116 points. They entered the postseason as the number one team in the Western Conference. The second-best team in the league was the Washington Capitals, who

players included Edmonton Oilers center Leon Draisaitl, who led the league with 52 goals, and Tampa Bay Lightning winger Nikita Kucherov, who finished with 121 points (goals plus

assists), the most this season.

One team that surprisingly made the postseason is the Montreal Canadiens. In December, they were ranked 31st out of the 32 teams, but they bounced back and clinched the last open wild card spot on April 16. They are facing the Capitals in the first round.

This season, there are several notable absences in the playoffs. From 1942 until 1967, the NHL had six teams, and until this year at least one US-based team from the Original Six—the New

York Rangers, Boston Bruins, Chicago Blackhawks, or Detroit Red Wings—appeared in the playoffs. This year, however, none of them made it. It was an especially disappointing season for the Rangers, who won last season's President's Trophy.

Among the first-round matchups is a series between two big rivals from the Atlantic Division of the Eastern Conference, the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Ottawa Senators. Both are based in Ontario, Canada, and their series is nicknamed the Battle of Ontario. On April 20, the Maple Leafs won Game 1 of the best-of-seven series, 6–2.

Two of the other teams from the East that got off to a winning start were the Capitals and the Carolina Hurricanes. In the West, the Jets, Vegas Golden Knights, Colorado Avalanche, and Los Angeles Kings all had Game 1 victories as well.

#### THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

#### DISTANCE RUNNING

were the best team in the Eastern Conference. Top

The Boston Marathon, a prestigious 26.2-mile race, took place on April 21.
Sharon Lokedi of Kenya was the women's winner, finishing in 2:17.22, a new course record. John Korir, also of Kenya, won the men's race in 2:04.45. In the wheelchair division, Marcel Hug of Switzerland won the men's title for the eighth time and Susannah Scaroni of the US won the women's title for the second time.



#### SOCCER

In NWSL (National Women's Soccer League) action on April 19, the Kansas City Current beat the Houston Dash, 2–0. It was their ninth straight regular-season win, dating back to last season, a new NWSL record. They are the only undefeated team this season.

#### FIGURE SKATING

A group of top US skaters, including singles stars Ilia Malinin and Alysa Liu, won the World Team Trophy, an international competition, on April 19.



# Oklahoma gymnasts win NCAA title

From April 17 to April 19, the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) women's gymnastics championships were held in Fort Worth, Texas. The University of Oklahoma won for the third time in four years. Oklahoma's Jordan Bowers won the all-around title.

After eight colleges competed in the semifinals, four made the finals: second-seeded (ranked) Oklahoma, fourth-seeded University of Utah, fifth-seeded UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles), and seventh-seeded University of Missouri. Louisiana State University (LSU), the top seed and the 2024 champions, did not score enough points in the semis to advance.

The team competition events were the beam, floor, uneven bars, and vault. In the final, Oklahoma led from start to finish, and by the

final rotation, only UCLA had a chance of catching them. Despite strong performances by UCLA's Jordan Chiles, who won gold with Team USA at the Olympics last year, and her teammate Brooklyn Moors, Oklahoma finished .4 points ahead to win. Missouri placed third, and Utah was fourth.

In the all-around, individuals compete in each event, and the gymnast with the highest total score wins. Oregon State University's Jade Carey, Chiles' Olympic teammate, came in undefeated and was in first after three rotations. However, she had a hop on her vault landing, which dropped her into fourth place. Utah's Grace McCallum, formerly of Team USA, came in second behind Bowers, and Oklahoma's Faith Torrez was third. Individual titles went to Chiles on bars, Moors on floor, LSU's Kailin Chio on vault, and Missouri's Helen Hu on beam.

### **SPOTLIGHT ON...**



### **DJ Newman**

AGE: 21 SPORT: BASEBALL TEAM: BOWLING GREEN UNIVERSITY

**Batter up** I come from a sports-oriented family, and I was very competitive from day one. In high school, I played football, baseball, and basketball. I fell in love with the team aspect of baseball. I also pitch and hit—I love doing that. Some people think baseball is boring and too long, but I think it's fun no matter how long you're out there.

#### **Getting motivated**

When I was in high school, I wasn't recruited by a lot of colleges. I felt like I was being overlooked. It drove me to go to the weight room and take more batting practice to get better.



**Real effort** You don't get to magically appear in a conference tournament by taking all the regular-season games off. The little games build up to the big ones. When you earn the right to be in them, it feels like you're where you're meant to be.

**Mind matters** If you overthink in baseball, you'll be a second behind or a mile-per-hour slower, so I try to trust myself and let my training do the work. And if you have a bad performance, you can't let it beat you up. If you're still thinking about it at a game the next day, it will snowball.

**Major moment** Last year, we won the regular season in our conference. It was the first time in my life I've been a true champion and got a championship ring. That was a pretty big milestone.

**Key to success** I do something baseballrelated at least six days a week. I take it seriously, but if you take it too seriously, it's going to affect you mentally. I try to have a smile on my face as much as possible and have fun like I did when I was

# COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Kim Anderson** 

Team: Flathead Valley United Academy Girls (soccer)

"I love Coach Kim. She challenges me to work on my footwork and striking stance. She teaches our team that it is OK to be competitive. When our team does not understand a soccer drill, she explains it to us with pictures and examples. In each practice, she observes our skills and decides on two or three 'Training Titans' who are the awesome players that day. This motivates us to continue to improve and support each other." Olive, 10, Montana

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@ theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



# **Arts and entertainment**



# A friendship made in the wild

The new documentary Pangolin: Kulu's Journey highlights a bond between a baby endangered animal and its caretaker.

n 2020, the award-winning documentary *My*Octopus Teacher told a story about a man's relationship with an octopus in the wild. That film was co-directed by Pippa Ehrlich, who has made a new documentary about a bond between another

human and animal. Pangolin: Kulu's Journey focuses on a rescued baby pangolin and a man devoted to caring for it. The film was recently released on Netflix.

Pangolins live in parts of Africa and Asia and are the world's only scaly-skinned mammals. Because some people believe pangolin scales can cure illness, they are among the world's most trafficked (caught and sold illegally) animals. The documentary was filmed in South Africa, where Kulu, a baby Temminck's pangolin, was rescued from poachers.

Gareth Thomas, a wildlife conservationist, met Kulu while volunteering with an

animal hospital and a group that works to save pangolins. He brought Kulu to a wilderness reserve, where they spent every day together for seven months. Thomas told *The Week Junior* that pangolins are "very captivating" and "you can't look away from them."

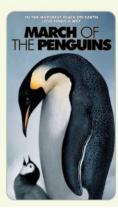
The film covers the pair's time at the reserve, Kulu's return to the wild, and his first year there. Thomas said the separation was challenging, but "it was harder for me than it was for him." When Kulu was in nature, he was filmed with motionsensor cameras that were hidden so they wouldn't bother him. The result, Thomas said, is "the sense that you're having a look into a secret world."

Many documentaries are filmed with a scientific perspective, but *Kulu's Journey* is more personal—with good reason. Thomas said one of its goals is to inspire people to care about helping the endangered pangolins. "If we want to create meaningful change, we need to use love," he said.

#### 3 more films about animals

#### March of the Penguins

This Oscar-winning film from 2005 is about emperor penguins in Antarctica who gather at the end of each summer to find mates and later care for their eggs and newborn chicks.



#### The Elephant Queen

**Gareth Thomas** 

A female elephant named Athena is the star of this 2018 story, filmed over four years in Kenya. After her herd's watering hole dries up, she must lead the group across the savanna in search of new water and food sources.



#### Puff: Wonders of the Reef

In this 2021 film, underwater cameras follow along as a baby sharp-nose pufferfish in Australia's Great Barrier Reef learns to survive and thrive during his first year of life.



# Minecraft film is a smash

One of the world's most popular video games has spawned the biggest film of the year. A Minecraft Movie, which came out on April 4, was the number one film during its first two weekends in theaters. It earned \$163 million in North America over the first weekend—a new opening-weekend record for a movie based on a video game—and has taken in a total of more than \$550 million worldwide since then.

A Minecraft Movie is an action-adventure that mixes computer-generated animation and live action. It is about a group of misfits who travel through a portal to the Overworld, the game's primary dimension. They are led by Overworld guide and expert crafter He Steve, played by funny actor Jack Black.

One of the film's most popular scenes is when a baby zombie character is dropped on top of a

chicken in a boxing ring, and Steve yells, "Chicken jockey!" Videos from inside theaters have shown audience members going wild and throwing popcorn in response. As a result, some theaters have set behavior expectations for people who see the film, and at least one theater said kids

cannot see it without an adult. The Regal theater chain, however, held special Chicken Jockey Screenings on April 20, encouraging fans to attend them dressed as their favorite character and make noise while watching the movie.

The film's director, Jared Hess, has been enjoying its success. "It's been way too fun," he told Entertainment Weekly on April 6. He was not upset that people were cheering at the action on screen and said, "I'm just glad people are making memories with their friends and families." A deal to make a sequel is currently in the works.





# **Sea Lions of the Galápagos** (Disney+)

A sea lion pup named Leo lives in the Galápagos Islands. This new documentary tracks him as he leaves his mother and begins to experience the world away from their colony. He encounters marine iguanas, dodges sharks, and faces rival sea lions as he gains independence.



# Andor (Disney+)

This Star Wars prequel series, set five years before *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, follows Cassian Andor as he transforms from a reluctant fighter to a hero spy in the battle against the evil Empire. In the new second season, he faces tough choices as the war intensifies.



#### Titanic: The Digital Resurrection (National Geographic) (Disney+) (Hulu)

It's been 113 years since the Titanic, a luxury passenger ship, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. The famous wreck sits 12,500 feet underwater, but this documentary unveils its full-scale digital twin, which was made with 715,000 images and cutting-edge 3D technology.



#### READER RECOMMENDS

**Bunk'd** (Netflix, Disney+, and Hulu)

"This is a spin-off of the sitcom Jessie, which was about three New York City kids—Emma, Ravi, and Zuri Ross—and their nanny. This show follows the kids to sleepaway camp, where the campers, counselors, and counselors in training have fun going on exciting adventures. One of the campers the kids meet is the owner's niece, Hazel. She has a crush on a boy named Xander, and Emma starts dating him. Other characters include Jorge, who exaggerates a lot, and Tiffany, whose strict mom doesn't let her have fun. It is an awesome show." Avery, 8, New York.

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.





# Solve puzzles and a mystery

Iroy and the Aliens is a new point-and-click adventure game. It was recently released for the PC and Mac.

The game takes place in a sci-fi version of the 1990s, but that's not the only retro thing about it. The game's point-and-click style was popular in that decade, and the hand-drawn animation was designed in the style of goofy TV cartoons from the same time period.

The main character is Elroy Deluna, the genius inventor of a remote-controlled rocket. He is the son of a famous archaeologist (scientist who studies objects left by people long ago) who disappeared 18 years earlier. Peggie Wolfe, a smart and energetic local reporter, visits Elroy for an interview, but after an incident with his rocket, they end up discovering a device

with a message from Elroy's father. In the recording, he says he's trapped in another world, so Elroy and Peggie blast off to a distant planet to find him.

The pair's journey takes them to 60 locations, including junkyards, offices, deserts, and alien jungles. You navigate the areas by clicking on spots on the

screen, and sometimes you'll have to move Elroy or Peggie around obstacles. Each character can collect different items that will help them solve the game's puzzles and complete their mission.

During their travels, Elroy and Peggie encounter giant aliens and strange creatures—and have their friendship put to the test. Once you make it to the final location in the game, Elroy will have to make a big decision, and what you choose to have him do will lead to one of several different endings.



#### PODCASI THE WELL

#### **HISTORY IGNITED**

Major podcast platforms

The famous Billy Joel song "We Didn't Start the Fire" inspired this series. Its lyrics contain 119 historical references, and each week the family that created the show delves into one of them. This year, the series was nominated for a Webby award (top internet prize).



### APP OF THE WEEK

Elroy and

his rocket



#### THE GREAT SNEEZE

Apple App Store, Google Play In this game, friends Caspar, David, and Friederike try to save an exhibition by German artist Caspar David Friedrich (1774–1840) that has been wrecked by a sneeze. You'll follow clues to help the kids find a man who disappeared from one painting and get everything back in order.

#### **WEBSITE # WEEK**

#### **GOOGLE FOOD MOOD**

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-FoodMood

If you like to cook, this site from Google Arts & Culture can give you ideas of things to make. You'll first select an appetizer, soup, main dish, or dessert. Then choose two countries to influence your dish, and artificial intelligence (AI) will generate a recipe that combines your selections.



MOTIVITI(2); HISTORY IGNITED; STUDIO MONSTRUM; GOOGLE

### **Book club**





OUR BOOK CLUB PICK FOR MAY

The Trouble with Heroes

THE WEEK

Book

By Kate Messner

(Bloomsbury) Finn must spend his summer climbing the peaks of New York's Adirondack Mountains. He is doing the hikes as part of a deal he made after damaging the gravestone of a beloved hiker. The hiker's daughter gave him this option because she knew that Finn was upset about his father's recent death. He has to take Seymour, the deceased hiker's dog, plus a "trail nanny" (an adult guide) on the treks. Angry and defiant, Finn ignores advice about what to carry in his backpack on his first journey. Halfway up, he has to turn around because he's out of water and food. When he tries again, he comes prepared and makes it to the top. Finn, an aspiring baker, decides to create a cookie that "matches the mountains." On another hike, he meets his father's high school hockey coach, who shares memories of his dad. As time goes by, Finn's attitude softens, and he begins to forgive his father, a firefighter, for not putting his family first. But then tragedy strikes again. This novel, written in verse, is hard to put down.

#### WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *The Trouble with Heroes.* 

For a chance to win, send your name and address to contests@theweekjunior.com with Heroes in the subject line. Enter by midnight on May 16. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.



#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB**

Full of surprises, *The Trouble with Heroes* is a heartfelt story told from the perspective of a boy struggling with his choices after his father died. Here are questions to get a conversation going with friends and family who have also read it.

Why does Finn feel conflicted about his father's heroism?

What do you think it means to be a hero?

How does Finn
become stronger
emotionally throughout
the summer?

Which poem in the book did you enjoy reading the most and why?

Should Finn be less sarcastic when talking to others? Why or why not?

What did you learn about Finn from his interactions with Seymour?

Do you think Finn will keep climbing?

Would you want to be friends with Finn?



#### **JOIN** THE WEEK JUNIOR'S BOOK CLUE

Watch a video Kate Messner created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our monthly book club works at <u>kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub</u>.



# Ask the author

Kate Messner is the best-selling author of Chirp, Breakout, and the illustrated nonfiction 10-book series History Smashers. The Trouble with Heroes is her first middle-grade book written in verse.

#### What inspired the book?

Over the course of eight years, I climbed all 46 peaks in the Adirondack Mountains. I took a notebook with me, and I'd write poetry. After the first five or six climbs, I realized that the voice in the poems wasn't mine—it was a character I wanted to create.

#### How is the format different?

It's my first book that's mostly written in verse. Finn has a lot of big feelings, and poems help capture them. I also sprinkled other material throughout the book, such as letters, recipes, and text exchanges.

# Do you have a real-life Sevmour?

No, I am allergic to dogs, but I love other people's dogs and always stop to say hello.

#### Why is Finn so funny?

When creating a character who is struggling, I think the character should also get to laugh. It's the same way we can laugh when we're going through hard times.

#### What books did you like as a child?

I read a lot of nonfiction, especially about dangerous animals and natural disasters. I was also into the Ramona series by Beverly Cleary. Just like Ramona, I always made messes and got into trouble.

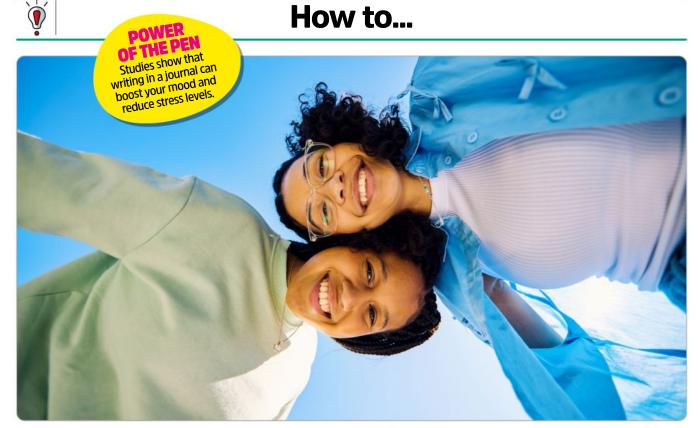
#### What are you working on now?

I'm writing a ghost story about three kids who break into a theater in New York City. One follows the main character home and knows her secrets.

#### Favorite cookie?

Chocolate chip. I made many batches of them while writing this book.





# Show someone your support

Simple gestures

mean a lot.

#### Your kindness during a tough time can make a world of difference.

Sometimes people who are close to us go through difficult times. That could include coping with an illness or other big changes in their life. You probably wish you could do something to help but might not be sure how. Just wanting to support them is a good place to begin. Here are some ideas to consider.

#### Let them know you care

Your friend or family member may feel like talking about what they are going through, or they may not. If they want to share, you can help by listening. If they don't, that's OK too. It's always appropriate to let them know you care and will be there for them. You could also ask how you can support them. You could show them they are in your thoughts by making a card with a note inside, like "Thinking of you!" Making a video on your own or with a group is another

option. You could also ask them if it would be OK to bring or mail them a baked treat, or you might put together a care package (see the box at right).

#### Spend time together

Your presence alone can be comforting. If possible, ask if they would like to do something together, like take a

walk, watch a movie, or do a puzzle. If it's a family member who lives far away, you can ask if they want to video chat or talk on the phone. You could also send them photos of your day to help them feel connected.

#### Pitch in with small tasks

People who care about you likely want you to keep your daily routine as much as possible, even while they are enduring something challenging. But you might be able

to pitch in when you can, too, with tasks like doing the dishes, taking care of a pet, or

folding laundry. If a friend has missed school, you could offer to help them catch up with classwork.

#### **Talk to someone**

Remember that your feelings are important too. It is normal to worry about someone you're close to, and it can be helpful to talk to a trusted adult, like a

parent, teacher, or school counselor. You can also ask questions about anything you don't understand. (This is a better option than looking up information on the internet.) If you need additional support, with an adult's guidance you can find out more about counseling or a support group for kids.

#### Care package ideas

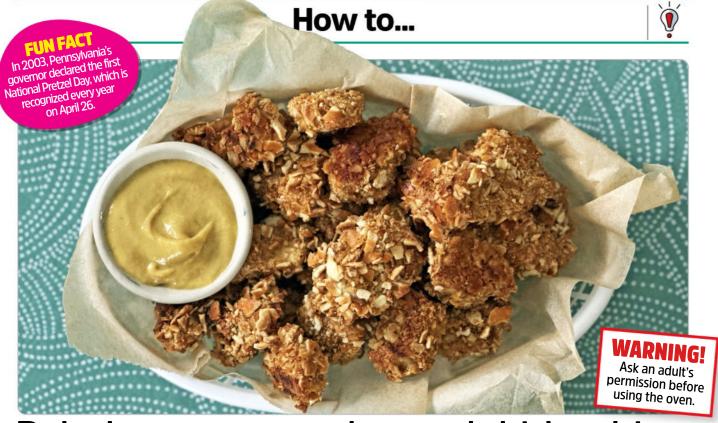


With an adult's help, you can create a thoughtful gift basket, like one of these.

Sunshine basket Gather a few yellow items, like body wash, a loofah, a lip balm, and a sunflower to boost their spirits.

Cozy comfort They might appreciate an extra-soft T-shirt, a pair of fuzzy grippy socks, a blanket or throw, and a bag of coffee or a box of tea.

Book lover If you know they enjoy reading, you could give them a book inscribed with a personal note from you inside, along with a pretty bookmark made by you with paint or markers and cardstock.



# Bake honey mustard pretzel chicken bites

#### Ingredients

- Olive oil cooking spray
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- ¼ cup honey mustard, plus more for dipping
- 1½ cups crushed honey mustard pretzels

#### Instructions

- Heat oven to 425° F. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil. Generously coat the foil with cooking spray. Cut the chicken into even, bite-size pieces and set aside.
- Place the flour in a large bowl and season generously with salt and pepper. Add the chicken pieces and toss in the flour to evenly coat.
- 3. Combine the mayonnaise and honey mustard in another large bowl. Place the crushed pretzels in a third, shallow bowl. Shake the excess flour off the chicken and add the pieces to the bowl with
- the mayo-mustard mixture. Stir the chicken pieces around until evenly coated.
- **4.** Working with a few chicken pieces at a time, roll in the crushed pretzels to coat, then arrange chicken on the prepared baking sheet.
- 5. Liberally mist the top of the chicken pieces with more olive oil cooking spray. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until the bites are golden and cooked through (when the internal temperature registers 165° F on a meat thermometer). Serve chicken with extra honey mustard for dipping. Serves 4.



You may feel more relaxed in your room and ready for sleep at night if you keep a neatly made bed. Starting with clean sheets, pull a corner of a fitted sheet (the one with elastic) over a corner of your mattress and tuck it under. Repeat with the other three bed corners, smoothing out the sheet in between. If you use a top sheet, place it over the fitted sheet and tuck it under the mattress. Place a light blanket on top, and tuck it under the sides and mattress. Next, you can drape a comforter or quilt over the sides of your bed evenly. Fluff your pillow with your hands, and put it at the top of your bed. Complete your cozy sleep space with any decorative items, like throw pillows or stuffed animals.







### **Puzzles**



# **Keyword crosswor**

Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Surface for exercising
- 3 Straight line that appears to separate the ocean from the sky
- 7 Construction girders are made of this
- 8 Home in the woods built out of logs
- 9 Word for a fruit like a lemon or orange
- 10 Like a baseball that lands inside the foul line
- 13 They pucker up when you kiss
- 18 Sea creature with eight arms plus two long tentacles
- 19 Learn by \_\_\_\_ (memorize)
- 20 Write code for an app
- 21 Finish

#### DOWN

- 1 A movie or play with songs
- 2 Chirp like a songbird
- 3 Important element that can also make your voice sound high and silly
- 4 Individual piece of gravel
- 5 Animal whose coat looks like a bar code
- 6 Type of religious woman often shown wearing black and white
- 11 Turned sideways
- 12 Song sung proudly about one's country
- 14 It was considered a planet until 2006
- 16 Use the non-pointy end of a pencil
- 17 Bad smell
- 18 The stuff in a maple tree that is used to make syrup

# 13 18 19 20

15 Create a device no one thought of before Keyword question: What kind of creatures were recently found to have built a dwelling place 34,000 years ago and occupied ever since?

### **CODE CRACKER**

In this coded list of hazardous jobs, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded E. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code. (NEED ANOTHER HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

E E E E E E E L X X V X X N X S
H X X N Y X B H M K X S
S B Z X Z B S H S M K X S

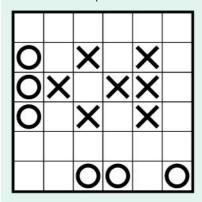
# THREE FOR ALL

Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY.

MORE FOOD OF BACK FEAR SECTION FOR HEIGHTS FROZEN

# **Hit or miss**

Place an X or O in each empty square so there are never more than three X's or O's together in a row, column, or diagonal. Hint: If you find three in a row of one letter, you can put the other letter into the spaces at either end.



Spot the difference These two pictures of a painting depicting Washington crossing the Delaware appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?







### Young inventors shoot for the Moon

On April 11 and 12 in Alabama, students from around the world pedaled and drove unusual vehicles through a course that resembled the surface of the Moon. NASA, the US space agency, was holding its 31 stannual Human Exploration Rover Challenge, which invites students 11 and older to design and create their own lunar rovers powered by human pilots or remote control. "Seeing everything materialize on that final day," said contestant Gustavo Espinosa-Lopez—"it's the biggest satisfaction anyone can have."



# Grandpa's on a trading card

Some kids collect Pokémon cards or baseball cards, but in Kawara, Japan, children are obsessed with trading cards that depict senior citizens. Created by a local official, the collection features 28 ojisan, or older men, from the town. Each man, including former fire chief Mr. Honda, age 74, and noodle master Mr. Takeshita, age 81, has special abilities in the game. One fan favorite is Mr. Fujii, a 68-year-old community volunteer, who said, "I never imagined I'd become a trading card, let alone have fans."



### Embroidered art is a piece of cake

Artist Heather Rios learned a sewing art called embroidery from her grandmother. She now makes artificial cakes using embroidery, clay, and paint and sells tasty-looking slices for as much as \$750. She embroiders thread on a hoop, then snips the threads to create a fluffy, sponge-like effect. To decorate her cakes, Rios uses a piping bag filled with paint, then adds toppings such as brightly colored fake sprinkles. Rios has also created treats such as cupcakes and doughnuts. "It's a little bit of joy," she said.



# A giant treat for peckish pups

In central London, UK, a pet food company has created a gigantic edible sculpture of a dog—for dogs. The company, James Wellbeloved, hand-crafted the scrumptious sculpture using dog-friendly ingredients that are packed with vitamins and minerals pets need. The enormous artwork has now been installed in a pedestrian area so dog walkers can safely stop by and let their four-legged friends enjoy a tempting treat. Do you think this story is true, or have we unleashed a great big lie?\*

\*Fake! There is a sculpture of a giant dog outside Somerset House in London, but it is made out of clay and earth, not dog food. It was installed by the pet food company James Wellbeloved to accompany an exhibition about soil.



### **Your turn**

#### **Editor's note**

As we were preparing to send

this issue of The Week Junior to press, it was announced that Pope Francis, the leader of the worldwide Catholic Church, had died at the age of 88 (p3). Tributes immediately began pouring forth from people who lauded the pope for his humility, his concern for the poor and the vulnerable, and his commitment to acceptance and peace. One of the things I found most significant about Pope Francis is that he was so widely admired and respected by people of many different backgrounds and beliefs. He was often referred to as "the people's pope." In the coming days and weeks, after a period of mourning and a funeral featuring traditions that have been followed for centuries. Catholic leaders from around

Andrea Barbalich

# **Speaking up** for oceans

66 When I was in fifth grade, I learned about marine pollution and how it is affecting the world. I wanted to do something about it, so I created the Ocean Savers Club. My friends and I taught students many things about marine pollution and how we can help. We tried to get recycling containers in the cafeteria and encouraged people to save the ocean. Some came on board. but we need more people! Please be conscious about the amount of plastic you use and support ocean-saving groups. Remember, a small change makes a big difference. 77



Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

#### CHARITY OF THE WEEK

the world will join together to carry out a complex

process, called a conclave, to select a new pope. We will report on these events in future issues.



#### Coral Reef Alliance

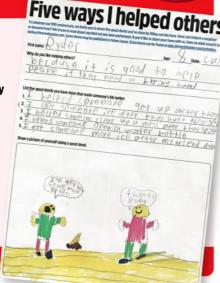
Coral Reef Alliance has a mission to save coral reefs around the world. Today, 75% of all coral reefs are threatened due to warming ocean waters, pollution, and overfishing. The group works with local communities to promote clean water and healthy fishing. It also teams up with scientists to find ways to protect the coral reefs. Find out more at coral.org.



### Your five good deeds

Ryder, an 8-year-old from California, said he likes helping others because it is the right thing to do. His good deeds include helping someone get up after they got hurt and opening a water bottle for another person. To mark The Week Junior's fifth anniversary this year, we're asking readers to share five good deeds they've done. Have you helped a neighbor or performed a kind act? Go to kids.theweekjunior. com/activities to download a form like the one at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the





# THE WEEK IT'S YOUR TUR

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

**YOUR PHOTOS** 

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"Nothing beats unwinding with *The Week Junior* on the couch after a long day of practice at the dojo." Kylar, 13, California

"During dinner, my dad asked me what my favorite section from the magazine was, and I said, 'Science!'"
Julia. 8. Minnesota





"We made the sheet pan gnocchi. It was super delicious and healthy!" Aiken, 12, Ohio



Teacher's Name: Mr. Frenkil School: Politz Day School

"Mr. Frenkil is one of the best math teachers ever. He lightly pushes you out of your comfort zone and loves to help in any way. He explains problems in a more understandable way so you can ace his class. He loves students who care about math, which is all of us because he makes it so much fun."

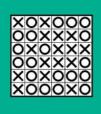
Amelia, 12, New Jersey

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!

Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.



Puzzle answers (from page 26)





**Quiz answers** (from page 30) 1 "Chicken jockey!" **2** c) Jordan Bowers **3** False. It reduces the amount of methane in cows' burps. **4** b) 73 **5** Paul Revere's ride **6** c) Rocket **7** True **8** b) Kidneys **9** Parakeets **10** a) Adirondacks **11** False. They all had dull, dark-colored fur. **12** b) Oregon **13** K2-18b **14** True **15** c) Trading cards

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

### Quiz

# How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Regal Theaters held special screenings of AMinecraft Movienamed after what line spoken in the film?

**2** Which athlete won the NCAA all-around women's gymnastics title?

a) Grace McCallum b) Jade Carey

c) Jordan Bowers

a b c

**3** True or false? A substance called bromoform reduces the amount of oxygen in cows' burps.

True False

**4** When the Empire State Building opened in 1931, how many elevators did it have?

a) 46 b) 73 c) 89

b c

**5** April 18 was the anniversary of what major event in the American Revolution?

**6** In the video game Elroy and the Aliens, what kind of remote-controlled vehicle did Elroy invent?

a) Boat b) Car c) Rocket

a b c

**7** True or false? In addition to being an astronaut, Jonny Kim is also a physician and a former Navy SEAL.

True \_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_

**8** Scientists found that which bodily organ helps sherpas handle the high altitude on Mount Everest?

a) Heart b) Kidneys c) Lungs

a b c





**9** What birds are also known as budgerigars or budgies?

**10**InthebookTheTroublewithHeroes, Finn must spend his summer hiking in what mountains?

a) Adirondacks

b) Appalachians

c) Catskills

a b c

**11** True or false? The world's earliest mammals all had light, bright-colored fur.

rue False

**12** Two high school teams from which state took first place at a national competition about the US Constitution?

a) California

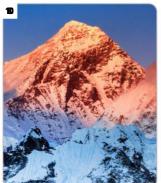
b) Oregon

c) Washington

b c

**13** What is the name of the far-off planet where scientists recently discovered possible signs of life?





**14** True or false? Pangolins are the only mammals in the world with scaly skin.

True False

**15** Senior citizens in Kawara, Japan, are being featured on what kind of popular collectibles?

a) Coins

b) Bobbleheads

c) Trading cards

a b c

# THE WEEK

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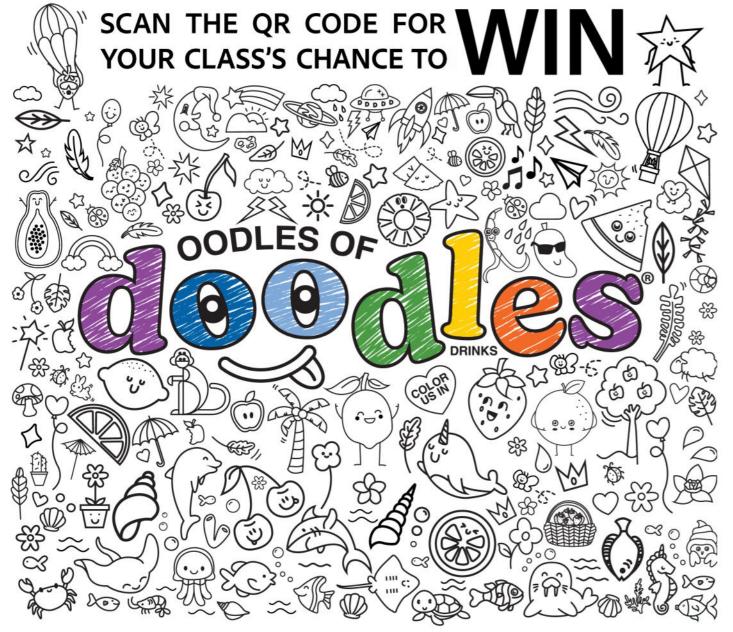
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# A CASE OF OODLES OF DOODLES DRINKS AND A CLASSROOM SUBSCRIPTION TO THE WEEK JUNIOR



oodlesofdoodlesdrinks oodlesofdoodlesdrinks.com

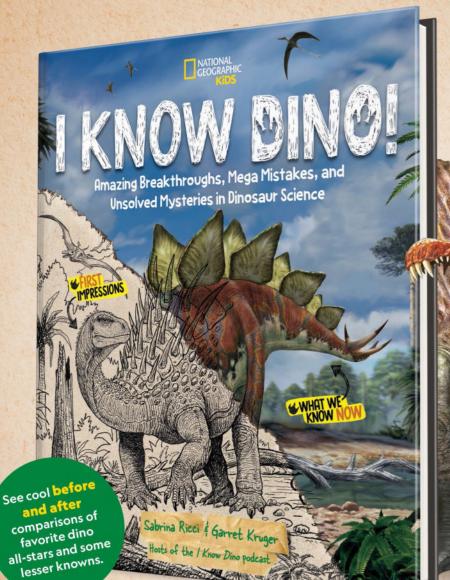
"Hi! I'm Millie Eason, and at the age of 13, I've done something that still feels absolutely incredible—I've helped create my own beverage company called Oodles of Doodles Drinks! You know how sometimes you have this brilliant idea that just won't leave your head? Well, that's exactly what happened with our fun, refreshing drinks. I'm really obsessed with our strawberry watermelon non-carbonated drink (it's absolutely dee-lish!), and our sparkling grape flavor is simply amazing!

The most brilliant part about being a co-founder is seeing our drinks sitting on store shelves—I still get butterflies every time I spot them! It's like watching your favorite drawing come to life—but better because you can actually drink it!

When I'm not busy creating new doodles or thinking up drink ideas, you'll find me on the soccer field. I absolutely love traveling around for matches—it's really exciting! What's especially cool is how both soccer and running a business teach you similar things—like working on a team and never giving up, even when things get challenging!"



# DINOMEGAGANS



Dig into I Know Dino! to discover some of the wild things scientists thought they knew about dinosaurs that were ... TOTALLY WRONG!













Get in on **DinoMAYnia** all month long (May 1-31) at natgeokids.com/dinomania.

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